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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3039 Centennial, CO 80161

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$25.00
Life Membership \$625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photo:

This new obverse die and thus new die marriage for the 1795 Flowing Hair Half Dollar was discovered in May 2020. It is only the second 1795 FH Half Dollar marriage discovered since the Haseltine Type Table Sale in 1881, the other being discovered prior to the Beistle half dollar book's publication in 1929. It will be called O-123 (Overton-133). Image courtesy of Steve Herrman and W. David Perkins.

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Editor's Comments

Welcome to the Pre-ANA issue of the John Reich Journal. It is exciting to finally be able to prepare for a major show after being sequestered for the better part of a year. I am sure there will be a lot of pent up energy released at the ANA convention.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August, 11 at 8:30AM in room 7 of the Stephen's Convention Center. The guest speaker at the JRCS annual membership meeting will be Richard Meaney. Richard has prepared a presentation on Capped Bust Half Dimes. His presentation will include a review of what major and minor collections have been sold recently, what characteristics of Capped Bust Half Dimes collectors have shown that they prefer, examination of a prized cud, and a new discovery.

I am sure everyone will be as excited as I am to hear from one of the preeminent half dime experts. News about a cud and a NEW DISCOVERY! Wow, I can hardly wait. Do not miss this opportunity to learn more about the half dimes.

We will also be conducting the annual business of the club at the meeting including election of officers and the presentation of awards. If anyone has a research project they are working on they can plug it during the meeting. I hope to see many of you there.

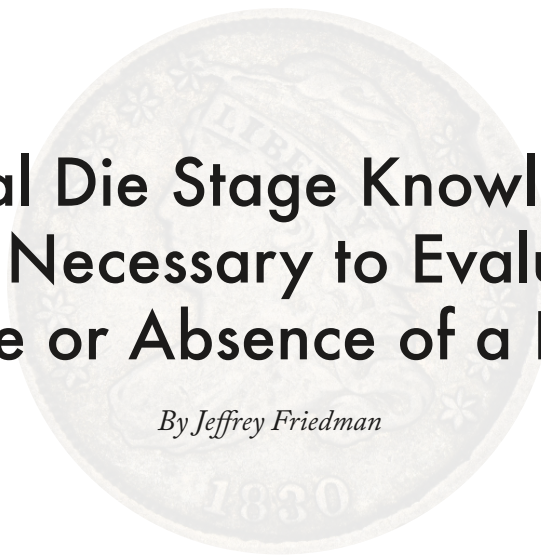
There will be other opportunities to meet with bust collectors at the convention. The Bust Quarter Collectors Society will

meet at 2 PM on the 11th in room 5. The Bust Half Nut Club will have their board meeting on Thursday the 12th at 8AM in room 22, their open meeting will be later that afternoon at 2PM in room 24.

A reminder to collectors of Capped Bust Half Dollars and Reeded Edge Halves. We will be publishing a census of each of these series in the next issue of the JRJ. If you have not yet contacted the census keepers with your information please do so ASAP so they can compile the information for the next issue. You can contact Steve Herrman at Herrman102@AOL.com with your Capped Bust information and Jim Koenings at bustcoin1@verizon.net with your Reeded Edge information.

Remember the JRCS is conducting quarterly Zoom meetings to keep in touch with the membership who are not able to attend the annual convention. The next one is scheduled for November 17th. Should you want an invitation to the meeting please contact Steve Herrman and he will email you one prior to the meeting date. Should anyone like to volunteer to give a presentation at any of our Zoom meetings please contact Winston Zack at stoneman101@gmail.com.

I hope everyone has a safe, healthy and productive summer. We are making preparations for the 2022 FUN Convention in Orlando. We will be announcing the speaker in the Fall issue of the journal. Hope to see everyone soon.



Terminal Die Stage Knowledge Is Usually Necessary to Evaluate the Presence or Absence of a Full Cud

By Jeffrey Friedman

Each denomination of John Reich designed silver coinage (half dimes, dimes, quarters and half dollars) currently has multiple published references. The primary purpose of the first major reference for each series was the identification and description of all known die marriages at the time the book or monograph was published (Valentine, Davis et al, Browning, Haseltine). These initial references were published over many decades. These references predominantly pictured one obverse and one reverse for each die marriage, without regard to the die stage. There subsequently have been additional published references for each series (Logan et al, Zack et al, Tompkins, Rea et al, Overton and Parsley), which provided additional information including newly discovered die marriages. The more recent references also provided more detailed information about the die stages. Many suggest rarity information for at least some of the different die stages and several included illustrations. In general, the more recent the book, the more

detail about die stages is included. The references by Tompkins and Rea et al provide the most detail on the apparent life cycle of each obverse and reverse die. Logan and McCloskey did provide one obverse and one reverse picture of each of the then known half dime remarriages and did describe many of the die cracks and progressions to cuds observed, but mainly without pictures. Previous articles by this author summarized information from these definitive references on the reported occurrence of cuds in each of the John Reich designed silver denominations focusing on the differences between cuds on obverses and reverses as well as definitions of the various types of cuds. However, those articles did not address in as much detail the identification of full cuds versus other types of cuds, which is the subject of this article. Edge cuds are not reviewed here, and this discussion is only of obverse and reverse cuds on Reich designed capped bust silver coinage.

The universally accepted definition of a full cud requires a piece of the die to be completely missing. It is also generally accepted that full cuds require inclusion of an area along the edge of a coin and that full cuds are the least commonly found type of cud on capped bust coinage. The vast majority of cuds are either retained or incomplete and not full cuds.

An early description of die deterioration in a modern reference on capped bust coinage is found in Davis et al *Early US Dimes 1984*, Appendix F and an excerpt follows. The bold has been added by the author of this article for emphasis.

“...Once a crack has started (usually near the periphery), it frequently joins an adjacent crack which may cause a piece of the die to become dislodged. When this happens, the affected area will be raised on the coin's surface; this is classified as a cud. If the loose piece should become completely dislodged from the die and no impression made on the planchet, it becomes a full cud. In either case, a weakness of strike is usually observed on the opposite side of the coin. **Because the cud portion of the coin is raised, it is vulnerable to wear, and any detail will soon wear away, giving the appearance of a full cud.**”

Parsley in his first revision of Overton, which is the third edition of Overton (1990), stated the following, again bold is added by this author for emphasis.

“...A die break is a larger or thicker line which also generally shows up as a raised area on the coin's surface. Some breaks show up on the finished coin specimen as an entire raised area. This happens when the

die is broken and the section slips. When the broken section of the die is dislodged from the main die it results in a **cud** or area where **no die detail is reproduced on the finished coin specimen.**”

Finally, in Thompkins *Early US Quarters 1796-1838* in a section titled “DIE STAGES” a more detailed statement appears, only bolding has been added by this author for emphasis.

“As different characteristics develop during the striking of subsequent coins (such as die cracks, die breaks, cuds, die clashes and general die deteriorations etc.) the die is at different points of a particular stage in its life. While some of these stages last for a long time, others are fleeting and may rapidly advance to another stage. Consequently, **EVERY COIN STRUCK MAY CONSTITUTE A DIFFERENT OR UNIQUE STAGE OR MULTIPLE COINS STRUCK MAY SHOW THE SAME PARTICULAR DIE STAGE.**

To make an accurate assessment of where to place a coin in any die stage progression, the coin must be in a grade of extra-fine or above otherwise knowing where it lies is at best a guess.”

The author's experience mirrors that which has been described by Davis et al and Tompkins. Specifically, for coins that are in lower grades, it is extremely difficult and most of the time impossible to determine whether or not one has a coin with a full cud. A pictorial example follows in Figure 1. There are three pictures of reverses of JR-3 capped bust dimes. The first two are taken from the Heritage Auctions web site, they are the Green-Newman

coin {1a}, and another about uncirculated details graded piece {1b}, both are about the same die stage and they are the latest die stages seen by this author. Davis et al plated an 1832 JR-3 which appears just a slightly earlier die stage than the coins plated as 1a and 1b in this article. One can see the large retained cud between the arrow heads and the rim with dentil details clearly present on both specimens. The presence of detail (dentilation) within the area of the cud clearly identifies the cud as not being a full cud {Figure 1a and 1b}. Additionally, on the reverses of both these coins there are several internal cuds, one coming off near the top of the eagle's left wing almost bridging to the letter M in AMERICA, a second bridging between the 0 (in 10) and the C for cents, a third by the claws and base of the arrow heads and a fourth between the 0 (in 10) and the rim. These internal cuds appear slightly more developed than the Davis et al plated JR-3. The last picture in figure 1 came from a coin on ebay {1c}, which was represented by the seller as having a full cud. There appears to be no detail whatsoever in the area of the retained cud between the arrow heads and the rim, which justified the seller's view that this coin had a full cud. However, when one compares the die stages between the three coins, both the Green-Newman {1a} and the second pictured AU coin {1b} are unequivocally later die stages as they have the above noted internal cuds, which are clearly less developed on the lower graded coin called by the seller a full cud. Given that both higher graded coins have retained cuds by the arrowheads, and do not have full cuds, and the third coin in figure 1, although represented as a full cud, is an earlier die stage, it is impossible that the third coin has a full cud. In fact, a full cud for the 1832 JR-3 die marriage

likely does not exist. The coins in Figure 1 highlight the great difficulty in knowing whether or not one has a full cud on a lower grade coin. This example provides a key piece of information that usually must be used when evaluating whether or not a particular coin has a full cud. Knowledge about the terminal die stage of an individual die marriage/remarriage can exclude the presence of a full cud on a low-grade coin, as shown in Figure 1 for the 1832 JR-3 die marriage. However, even if a low-grade coin is of the latest known die stage and has no detail within the area of an apparent full cud, one usually cannot unequivocally conclude such a coin has a full cud.

Others examples of apparent full cuds that are not, come from the capped bust half dime series. Logan and McCloskey in *Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837* produced a number of Remarriage Charts for various individual reverse dies. These were derived from their established emission order for all the then known capped bust half dime die marriages and remarriages. Reverse DD was used for multiple remarriages, the last two uses of this reverse die were 1835 LM-9.2 and 1836 LM-1.2, respectively. Figure 2 shows two 1835 LM-9.2 reverses {2a and 2b} and two 1836 LM-1.2 reverses {2c and 2d}. One of each remarriage appear to be full cuds {2a and 2c}. Since the 1836 LM-1.2 was struck after the 1835 LM-9.2 and there are numerous 1836 LM-1.2s with complete reverse details in the area of the cud including the TED of UNITED, no 1835 LM-9.2 can have a full cud unless there was an undescribed additional remarriage of these two dies where there was a piece of this reverse die missing, an exceedingly unlikely occurrence. The first 1836 LM-1.2 reverse {2c} has two retained

cuds, and one can observe that the letters TED in the cud in UNITED are very shallow on this uncirculated coin due to the presence of the retained cud. The space between the obverse and reverse dies was greater in this area than the rest of dies, and there was consequently less pressure applied to the planchet in this area where the reverse (anvil) die was depressed below the level of the remainder of this anvil die. Since this area of the coin (around TED) is so shallow, wear can easily make it disappear before all other elements of the reverse design. This will result in what can be seen in the lower grade example of the 1836 LM-1.2 reverse remarriage {2d} in Figure 2, namely, an area that appears to be a full cud. This author does not believe a full cud exists for the 1836 LM-1.2 remarriage. The rationale is that if such a large piece of the reverse die was missing, one would not see very much detail on the obverse opposite this area, although several stars are weakly struck and star 3 even appears to be missing, all the dentils are still well defined on the obverses of both plated coins 1836 LM-1.2s, even the low-grade example {2e, 2f}.

The author believes the only way to be 100% certain a capped bust coin has a full reverse cud is for there to be metal raised above the rim in the area of the full cud with no design detail present. The rationale for this statement is that the coining process applied pressure to the planchet to force its metal into the recesses in the dies, both hammer (obverse) and anvil (reverse) to develop the raised areas on the coin (i.e., capped liberty, eagle, lettering, denomination, etc.). If the reverse (anvil) die has a missing piece, the resistance to the applied force (from above as the screw press brought the dies together during

coining) would have been substantially lower in the area with a missing piece than in the remaining areas of the dies where compression of the planchet occurred between the dies rather than just allowing the planchet to flow without restriction into the void between the missing piece of the anvil (reverse) die and the collar edge dies.

For capped bust half dimes, Logan and McCloskey specifically identified only one reverse die with a full cud, that being the 1829 LM-3. Plated in their book is an example of the 1829 LM-3 marriage with a full cud. There is also one other unequivocally known capped bust half dime with a full reverse cud, 1835 LM-4. Figure 3 shows examples of both full cuds on the reverses of these capped bust half dimes {3a, 3b}. One can see the area within the full cuds is clearly raised above the rest of the rim and extends as a raised area to the tops of the adjacent letter(s). There is absolutely no detail in the area of the full cuds, which appear as smooth blobs of metal. There are also corresponding areas of weakness in the dentils on the opposite sides of these coins on their obverses (not pictured). As a coin circulated and experienced wear, the highest points would wear first, so the area of a full cud would be most affected. Figure 3c also shows an 1831 LM-2 graded extremely fine. It appears to have a full cud with no detail area of the cud. However, the cud area on the 1831 LM-2 is not similarly raised above the rim and rounded as the 1829 LM-3 and 1835 LM-4. The coin in Figure 3c clearly has a retained cud, but, in the author's opinion, one can conclude this coin does not have a full cud. The author has never seen nor heard of an 1831 LM-2 with an unequivocal full cud.

The issue is more complex on the obverse of capped bust coinage. The obverse dies were almost always the hammer die for all Reich designed silver coinage. If a piece of the obverse die was missing when pressure was applied via the obverse die to the planchet, no force would have been applied from above in the area of the planchet within the missing piece of the obverse (hammer) die. The metal of the planchet could be forced up into the void in the obverse (hammer) die, but in contrast to a void in the reverse (anvil) die, the planchet can much more easily be forced down into a void when pressure is continuously applied from above with no resistance below. To create a coin with a full obverse cud, the remaining planchet would need to be either driven down below the level of the planchet in the area of the missing piece of the die, or if the missing die piece was large enough, the planchet within the cud might still remain roughly at the level of the adjacent planchet not within the full cud. The collar die will also constrain the metal of the planchet as it is forced down into the coining chamber (for closed collar coinage {half dimes, dimes and quarters}), but this will not impact the obverse surface above the coining chamber, where an obverse cud would be seen. Consequently, obverse full cuds usually appear not to be raised at all above the contiguous rim area, in contrast to full cuds on reverses of capped bust coinage. The larger the area of an obverse cud, the less raised will be the area within the cud and the most interior portion of the cud can be lower than the portion closest to the rim. Figure 4 shows pictures of two obverse cuds, an 1830 JR-3 {4a} dime and an 1825 JR-4 {4b} dime. The larger JR-4 cud appears not as raised; there is no dentil detail in the area of the cud and no differentiation between the external

edge of the coin and interior points of stars 8-11 (i.e., dentilation, exterior star outlines) and there is nearly the same height of the coin between the interior of these stars and the edge of the coin. In the opinion of the author, this is clearly a full cud. The author has an example of this die marriage with die cracks in the identical area where the full cud develops; this being completely consistent with the area between the die cracks and the edge of the obverse die breaking away thus creating the ability of this die to strike a coin with the full cud. The 1830 JR-3 dime has similar characteristics with no dentil details in the area of the cud and a very thick, sharp drop off to the rest of the coin surface abutting the cud, which also is clearly a full cud in the author's opinion. Since the area of the cud is much smaller on the 1830 JR-3 than the 1825 JR-4, the height of the cud is greater as a consequence of the area of the cud being much smaller. The author, similar to the 1825 JR-4, also has an 1830 JR-3 coin with die cracks in the identical area where the full cud developed on this die marriage. The 1825 JR-4 dime has perhaps the largest obverse cud on any Reich designed silver coin.

Since most published references for the Reich designed capped bust series do not provide complete information regarding the terminal die stage for each die marriage, identification of full cuds on capped bust coinage is problematic. Therefore, most collectors will not be able to accurately determine whether or not they have identified a coin with a full cud, as clearly demonstrated in Figure 1. For coins where the terminal die stage is known, one has a better chance of identifying the presence of a full cud. For coins with cuds on reverses that are clearly raised above

all areas of the adjacent rim and devices (e.g., lettering, stars, etc.) with no detail present in the area of the cud, it may be possible to conclude one has a full cud but not necessarily for lower grade coins where substantial wear has occurred. However, for coins with reverse cuds without areas raised above the adjacent rim, one can conclude such a coin does not have a full cud or if a low grade, it will remain indeterminate. For coins with obverse cuds as can be seen in Figure 4, knowledge of terminal die stage is also necessary,

but not always sufficient to identify full cuds. Consequently, ascertaining a census of capped bust silver coins designed by John Reich with full cuds is essentially impossible. Therefore, our community will only be able to develop counts of coins with cuds without differentiation between full and/or retained and/or incomplete cuds for each die marriage/remarriage in the Reich designed silver coinage. The author welcomes any correspondence on particular capped bust coins with potential full cuds at friedmanbythesea@gmail.com.



1a



1b



1c

Figure 1

Three examples of 1832 JR-3 capped bust dime reverses, 1a, the Newman-Green coin graded NGC 58, 1b, an about uncirculated details graded coin, and 1c a PCGS coin graded PCGS Good 04. Note the details of the dentils in the two about uncirculated graded coins and the multiple internal cuds, the latter of which are not all present or as well developed on the PCGS Good 04 coin. Figures 1a and 1b were taken from the Heritage Auctions website. Figure 1c was taken from ebay.

Figure 2



Multiple examples of 1835 and 1836 capped bust half dimes having Logan, McCloskey reverse DD are pictured. An 1835 LM-9.2 (2a obverse and 2b reverse) grading good with its reverse having two cuds, one appearing to be full (at TED although this area is not raised above the rim anywhere) while the second cud is a retained cud. The obverse of this coin (2a) clearly shows well defined dentils in the area opposite the apparent full cud. Pictures of two 1836 LM-1.2s are next shown (2c, 2d and 2e), 2c is uncirculated and shows a very weak strike on the TED of UNITED but with dentils present in this area and weakness opposite TED at stars 3 and 4, yet dentils are still present on the rim near the weakly struck star. There clearly is no full cud on this coin unless there was another remarriage unknown to Logan and McCloskey, who identified this as the last known usage of the DD reverse die; this eliminated any possibility of a full cud on any 1835 LM-9.2 remarriage. Figure 2d appears to have a full cud on the reverse of this 1836 LM-1.2, although again this area is not raised above the adjacent rim. Figure 2e shows the obverse of this coin. Note the weakness of star 3 in 2e, but also the presence of dentil details by the weakness of star 3. The absence of significant weakness on the obverse rim opposite any potential large full cud is quite problematic and makes this author conclude this is not a full cud.

Figure 3



Two capped bust half dime examples with full reverse cuds 1829 LM-3 (3a, extremely fine) and 1835 LM-4 (3b, uncirculated) are shown. These both have an area raised above their rims without any dentilation and with no detail whatsoever present going from the rim to the tops of the lettering on their reverses and appearing as smooth blobs of metal. Figure 3c shows an extremely fine 1831 LM-2 with an area raised to the height of the rim and lettering, but not above it, appearing to have no detail present in this area and as such is not a full cud.

Figure 4



Two capped bust dimes with obverse full cuds are shown. Figure 4a is an 1830 JR-3 dime with a cud from the rim to the outer points of stars 8 and 9. The height of the cud is equal to that of the rim and no dentil detail is present in the area of the cud. Figure 4b shows an 1825 JR-4 dime with a large cud between the rim and 4 stars. Note that the rim merges with the stars and their border toward the rim is not discernable in the area of the cud which is contiguous with the rim of the coin and no dentil detail is present.



A Bad Day at the Mint or Just Economy?

By Louis Scuderi

For starters, I must admit that I have always been intrigued by events that appear random at first but reveal an underlying pattern when more information becomes available. Coin collecting, and especially collecting with a focus on early US mint activities clearly falls into that category. Namely, we know so little about the early mint that in most cases we can only hypothesize about what was going on in terms of past operations and practices. In some cases, the diligent work of specialists and the combined observations of many collectors can help to fill in the blanks in our understanding. From observations of extant coins, we can build up a better understanding of what “possibly” went on at the mint as well as refinement of mintages estimates, varieties, etc., all of which tell us something about how the mint operated. And, I purposely used the term “possibly” here because in many cases these findings are suggestive rather than definitive since in most cases no mint documentation has been uncovered that describes these practices.

In some inquires we can actually analyze the metallic contents of the coins to inform us. While there are many examples

to choose from, I note the recent work of David Finkelstein and Christopher Pilliod (2019) who analyzed available specimens of 1794 and 1795 silver (and copper) coins to determine whether the mint adhered to the 89.24% and 10.76% standard, Zach (2019) who looked at the composition of counterfeit coins, and Scuderi (2019) who looked at the composition of electrotypes. These studies, utilizing sophisticated analytical equipment, have revealed valuable information on early mint practices, those of counterfeiters who were attempting to fool the general public and of legitimate early collectors in need of “specimens” of extremely rare US coins.

In the middle of the spectrum, and relying more upon statistics, are studies based on estimates of surviving numbers of specimens by date and marriage as well as die states that can be used to estimate die life. In some cases, this information can be used to determine emission order (Sherrill, 1998; Scuderi, 2018a). I would add to this category specialized studies of CUDs (Friedman, 2019) and die chips (Scuderi, 2018a) which can be used to infer information on striking practices, metallurgical properties of dies and rates of die failure.



Figure 1: Obverse die states and on 1830 JR1, 2 & 3 illustrating a die progression study for 1830 Obverse 1 (Davis et al., 1984). Far left: JR1 in its "prime" state has perfect dentils. The dentils progressively 'crumble' (Davis et al., 1984) during the striking of all Obverse 1 marriages. JR1, and the relatively rare very early die state of JR2, show no dentil crumbling above S6. Middle Left: A die crack later appears faintly across the cap at the termination of the JR2 marriage. Middle Right: The crack becomes more severe during the JR3 coinage with an internal cud found between S7 and the cap. Far Right: Finally, while coining JR3 dentil crumbling further evolves and a terminal cud appears between S8 and S9.

On the far end of the spectrum of studies are those that are observationally derived yet which have a limited "database" of information for lack of either mint documentation, compiled information by collectors, or in extreme cases, the rarity of specimens to study. These limitations often preclude the use of statistics and are based primarily on small samples. This includes the topic of this paper, namely the rare clustering of mint errors in the capped bust silver series. While the primary purpose of this paper is to discuss the possible causes of error clusters, the secondary, and perhaps more important purpose of this paper, is to encourage speculation and discussion.

Several collectors have specialized in bust error coins; Stew Witham and Russell

Logan who purchased many of Stew's and Henry Hilgard's coins immediately come to mind. Having talked with Russ at length about bust errors and reviewing the Logan sale catalog (Bowers and Merena, 2002) it is clear that Stew, Henry and Russ compiled sizeable collections of errors. These include off center, brockage (Figure 2), clipped (Figure 3) and double struck specimens. Hill (1998) identified 35 double-struck bust half dollars with twenty-three show doubling on both sides (four on the obverse only, six on the reverse only and two being flip over double strikes). The errors at first glance occur in an apparent random pattern across the mintages from 1807 through 1836, with some years, at least as represented in the Logan collection and in my observations, apparently deficient of errors.



Figure 2. 1827 JR1 reverse brockage images. NGC Cert #2036971-001 MS64.



Figure 3. A clipped “sequence” of bust dimes from 1820. Left JR10. Middle JR11, Right JR12.

As I noted above, this is a small sample. Yet, due to the high interest by collectors in errors in the bust silver series and the likelihood that significant errors easily visible to collectors were set aside when found, this small sample may actually reveal information about minting practices. What I did not realize when I first began to collect bust errors, is that a number of them occur on the same marriages. This suggests the possibility, rather than being random errors, that some underlying “process”, either inadvertent or possibly operational, was at work. While I first noticed the clustering on 1823 JR1 dimes, several other well-known error clusters are known. The 1827 O-148 half dollars (Figure 4) were the subject of an article by Logan (2001). Russ found that many of the then 12 known examples were either double or triple struck and that four of the multiple struck coins were first struck as an obverse brockage. Logan (2001) speculated that the screw press had malfunctioned but noted, “the existence of a brockage

strike on a third of the known examples does not prove that the equipment failure occurred with the striking of the O-148 die marriage”.

Using dentil positions he was able to determine that the obverse brockage was struck using Obverse 21 (1827 O-148, followed by O-131 followed by O-148) based on the Leaman and Gunnet (1987) edge emission order, but was unable to confirm the use of reverse AG (O-143 followed by O-148) on these brockages. I note that O-148 exists with both edge 11 and edge 12 for 1827 (Leaman and Gunnet, 1987). Falling at the end of the edge 11 sequence and near the beginning of the edge 12 sequence opens the possibility, though remote, that one of several other possible reverse dies may have been in the screw press when the brockage coins were produced and possibly laid aside for later restriking.



Figure 4. Logan 1827 O-148 specimen. EF-45: Ex Chuck Erb; Logan. Triple struck; first strike an obverse brockage, with all stars and date visible on reverse in addition to incused dentils from 5 o'clock to 9 o'clock; second strike normal but slightly misaligned from the first strike, and the third strike 1mm offset from the second strike (Logan, 2001).

The 1837 B5 quarter is another example of off center double-struck coins (Bowers & Merena, 2002; Scuderi, 2018b) known from more than one example. As pointed out in that paper, I wondered whether the Logan B5 “freak” had compatriots (Scuderi, 2018b). A long search of this rare variety actually turned up another double struck specimen and indications of at least two additional error specimens. Other possible error clusters from the Logan collection can be found in the auction catalog with a fair number illustrated on the web site <http://www.logan.com/russ/collection/>

Turning to the 1823 JR1 dimes that initially caught my attention, there are a significant number of double struck coins known. The Logan Collection had an example (Lot 2047 not imaged, Bowers & Merena, 2002) described as double struck with the first strike 40% off center and rotated 10° with respect to the second centered strike. Figure 5 illustrates two examples with strong obverse and reverse doubling.



Figure 5. Examples of two-sided double struck 1823 JR1 specimens. The top image may be the Logan specimen.

Figure 6 (on page 16) illustrates two lower grade specimens that show doubling on the reverse. An additional reverse brockage specimen (not illustrated) exhibits incuse reverse lettering in the lower stars to the right of the portrait. The documented number of specimens (6 and possibly 7) is an unusual and unexpected group of errors for any variety and is similar in number, but not absolute percentages, to that for the rare 1827 O-148 half dollars and the 1837 B5 quarters.



Figure 6. Reverse double struck specimens. Upper: Note wing and LIBERTY offset to the right ~40 degrees. Lower: Doubling (circled) of horizontal (azure) lines on left side of shield and into left wing.

It is important to note that 1823 JR1 exhibits two significant reverse die states. The early die state, inherited from the 1821 JR10 marriage, does not exhibit any die cracks. Later in the life of the 1823 JR1 marriage a significant die crack appears from the rim above T1, through T1, and through the field into the left wing. This

reverse die was eventually retired, likely due to this failure. Interestingly, all of the known double struck and brockage specimens of 1823 JR1 appear to be the earlier die state and exhibit that same state of obverse die deterioration in the dentils above star 10.

Given an estimated bust silver survival rate of 2% or less (Zach, 2015) suggests that perhaps 150-200 “errors” could have been coined for 1823 JR1. However, it is more likely that many were saved by collectors because of the interesting double strikes and as a result, error survival rates are skewed. That said, the fact that one of my specimens is worn to AG/Poor grade and the other two, while higher grade, required a hand lens to see the doubling and brockage errors, suggests that there may be a significant number of unrecognized and less obvious error specimens still to be found.

We can speculate about what happened to produce this error cluster (and possibly others, as Russ Logan (2001) did for the O-148). I provide the following in the hope that the membership might add to this discussion and possibly even uncover additional error specimens of 1823 JR1 and other varieties that might allow us to identify other error clusters.

So what can be inferred from these 1823 JR1 error specimens?

1) A small but significant production run error likely occurred during the striking of 1823 JR1 dimes. The relatively large number of known multiple struck dimes where errors can easily be seen and a number of specimens where the errors are not as discernable suggests that additional specimens likely exist. In other words, look closely at your 1823 JR1 dimes. You may have a double struck or brockage example in your collection!

2) One example is a reverse brockage. This may have been the initial cause of the production problems. As Logan (2001) speculated, the production of 1827 O-148 errors may have been the result of a problem with the machinery that may have started with a coin stuck in the die producing a brockage. As with the O-148 half dollar, many subsequent error coins may have been produced before the die operator realized the problem.

3) Two examples are double-sided double strikes, while two are, to the best of our knowledge, single sided (reverse) though it is possible that evidence of a second strike on the obverse side of the coin was obliterated completely during the second strike or removed by circulation wear. Do one-sided examples of the 1823 JR1 errors exist?

4) Of the known double struck examples, three are offset approximately 40% to 50%. One would expect that with a brockage piece stuck in the dies that subsequent strikes might be somewhat similar. Two of the examples (Figure 5 lower and Figure 6 upper) display very similar offsets to the right. The third (Figure 5 upper) has a completely different directional offset but exhibits the same 40 to 50% degree of strike offset. Is this telling us something about the minting process or what caused the error cluster?

5) All of these errors appear to be the same die state and occurred relatively early in the striking of JR1. Was this the cause of the eventual reverse die failure? As a side note we know that 1823 JR2 uses the same

obverse as 1823 JR1 and the same reverse as 1823 JR3, 1827 JR2 and 1827 JR14. Is it possible that the later die state of 1823 JR1 with reverse cracking at T1 was actually minted much later than the early die state due to equipment failure that possibly was the cause of the error cluster?

While most of the above is speculation, it is clear that in the case of the 1823 JR1, 1827 O-148 and 1837 B5 marriages that either some form of die failure, or more likely a problem with a coin stuck in the screw press, may have produced a significant cluster of error coins. It appears that normal operational practice at the mint was to refeed these “spoiled” planchets into the screw press rather than to melt them down for later coinage. In many cases, the original struck coin may only reveal its double struck nature through dentil tracks, subtle offset gules in the reverse shield, or even evidence on the rim.

Collectors of early US coinage should carefully examine their coins, as there are likely many additional “hidden” double-struck examples. If you have some additional error examples of 1823 JR1, or find other error clusters, feel free to contact me. Perhaps we can develop a new “error” subpage on the JRCS website to post examples.

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Capped Bust Die States Not Described in Overton Reference

By Stephen J. Herrman

A number of known very early and very late die states which have been sold at auction are not described in *Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836*, Fifth Edition by Don Parsley. Presented here are some of the more interesting and elusive ones. Rarity rating estimates for these die states are the current opinion of the author. Time will tell how rare they really are.

1807 O.114/A' R5? LARGE STARS DIE CRACKS OBVERSE & REVERSE — A SHATTERED DIE

Obverse die cracks: 1) from edge arcing through back of cap, through upper ribbon to top of S12 to edge, 2) below S1 to S6 through headband to back of cap, ending in a lump, 3) from edge through 7 in date to bust, ending at clasp, 4) from edge left of date, under bust, to S2, 5) light crack from edge above S8 through inner point of S9 to S10, 6) light crack across top of date to S12.

Reverse die cracks: 1) from edge above E through D ST, to scroll between UR, exiting above second U, through F AM to



edge, 2) from edge above C, across tip of A, lower tips of arrowheads, through top of 50 C, through lower olive leaves to edge, 3) from bottom of C in 50 C, extending right and downward to edge.

1809 O.106' R5? NO DIE BREAK FROM STAR 1 TO STAR 7

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None

1809 O.110' R6? NO INCUSED SEGMENTS OVER EAGLE

Obverse die cracks: 1) from edge through S4, ending in small irregular lumps in field

Reverse die cracks: None

1810 O.101' R7? NO DIE CRACKS

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None

1811 O.107' R6? NO DIE CRACK OR DIE CHIP IN 1 OBVERSE

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: 1) from edge, joins two lower arrowheads and circles left across 50 C, olive leaves and UNITED STATES of AM, 2) from edge through tip of left wing to first die crack

1812 O.105' R7? NO DIE CRACKS OBV

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None

1814 O.107' R7? NO DIE CHIP IN N REV

Obverse die cracks: 1) rough die break between ribbon ends extends between S10 and S11

Reverse die cracks: None

1817 O.103'B' R6? LDS, NEW SMALLER DOT "181.7"

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None



A new, smaller die dot is located a bit lower and closer to the 7 in the date. Imaged by Stack's Bowers

1817 O.105' R7? NO DIE CRACKS, 4 TO 5 KNOWN

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None

**1818 O.104'B' R6? DIE CRACK
FROM STAR 8 TO STAR 13,
HEAVY DIE CRACK AT STAR 7**



Obverse die cracks: 1) from S4 and two points of S3 across bust to lower edge of drapery, 2) crack at 90° angle from first crack extends sharply upward through drapery, eventually extending to edge left of first 1 in date, 3) from edge through first 8 to previous crack, 4) sharp crack from edge above S7 to cap and through I in headband; 5) from rim above cap through right stars

Reverse die cracks: None

**1818 O.112' R6?
EDS, NO DIE CRACKS**

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None

**1819 O.107'B' R7? DIE CRACKS
FROM STAR 13 TO NOSE &
STAR 5 TO FORECURL**

Obverse die cracks: 1) heavy crack from S2 to bust to left curve of 9 in date, 2) from S13 across curls and cheek to nose, 3) across upper part of S5 through S6 to forecurl

Reverse die cracks: 1) light crack at top of AMERICA to edge below arrowheads

**1822 O.102'A' R5? DIE CRACK
FROM LOWER POINTS OF
STAR 3 INTO FIELD**

Obverse die cracks: 1) from top of 8 in date to lower curl, 2) through lower two points of S3 into field, eventually curving up to lower chin, 3) from lower curl, extending through lower two points of S13 to edge, 4) from edge at crack 3 to top of S13 to S12, 5) from top of 8 in date, across lower bust and into the field, joining crack 2

Reverse die cracks: None

**1823 O.103'A' R6? DIE CRACK
THRU LETTERING REV**

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: 1) from D in UNITED through STATES OF AM

**1823 O.104'A' R5? THIN DIE
CRACK FROM S7 TO HEADBAND
& CURLS**

Obverse die cracks: 1) fine crack from edge through left side of S7 to front of headband

Reverse die cracks: None

**1826 O.110'A' R5?
OBV DIE CRACKS PER O.111**

Obverse die cracks: 1) from edge to edge through top of cap, 2) from bust to S1 through S7, 3) from bust to top of 182 to lower curl and S12 through S8

Reverse die cracks: None

**1826 O.113'B' R6? DIE CRACK
THROUGH TOP OF TATES**

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: 1) from below 50 C, along tips of olive leaves to top of UNI, 2) through top of TATES and over OF

1826 O.114 R7? N NOT FILLED

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None

**1826 O.115'A' R6? THIN DIE
CRACK THRU LEFT STARS**

Obverse die cracks: 1) thin die crack through the left stars

Reverse die cracks: None

**1827 O.136' R6?
TOP OF "8" SHOWS IN DENTILS
BELOW DATE**

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None

**1828 O.106'A' R8? DIE CRACK
FROM TIP OF DRAPERY TO
CHEST TO CHIN, 2 KNOWN**



Obverse die cracks: 1) from tip of drapery, through chest, to chin, and into cheek behind nose

Reverse die cracks: fine crack at top of UNITED

1829 O.114' R7? A'S NOT FILLED

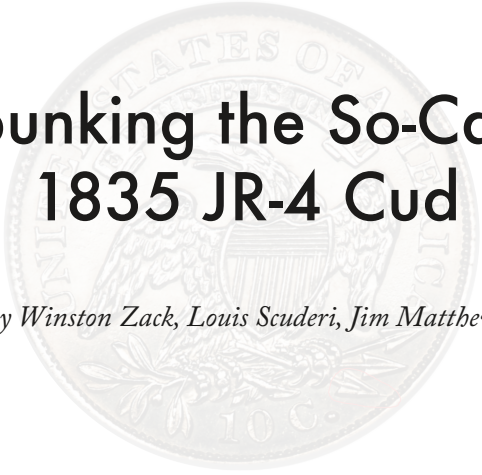
Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None

**1831 O.111' R7?
NO DIE CRACKS OBV**

Obverse die cracks: None

Reverse die cracks: None



Debunking the So-Called 1835 JR-4 Cud

By Winston Zack, Louis Scuderi, Jim Matthews

I (WZ) started collecting Bust dime cuds shortly before the March 2009 issue of the John Reich Journal (JRJ) was printed (Volume 19, Issue 3). On page 20 of this issue is a table titled “Known CUDS (Full & Retained) On Capped Bust Dimes”; this is an expanded version of the list found on page 275 of *Early United States Dimes 1796-1837* (EUSD) by Davis et al (1984, Appendix F). At the time, this was an excellent summarization of all the known and documented cuds on Capped Bust dimes and it provided a checklist from which collectors could hunt for cuds missing from their collections. Furthermore, photos of nearly all of these cud’s were available at various online resources so that collectors knew what to look for. However, one cud eluded the photographic references, and that is 1835 JR-4. When we (WZ & LS) published our quickfinder in 2016 we listed the cud as “Not shown in this publication” and all three authors in a combined 70+ years of searching had not seen one.

EUSD Appendix F lists 1835 JR-4 with reverse cud from “A3 and arrowheads”. However, under the main text description this cud is not listed under ‘Die Defects’ or described in “Comments”; only the 1829 JR-4 cud from the list on page 275 did not have a corresponding description of that cud on the corresponding page of that marriage...all other cuds from page 275 were described within their respective ‘Die Defects’ section. The 1835 JR-4 cud description was later reprinted in that 2009 JRJ with a rarity of R7 (4-12 known); presumably 4-12 examples of this cud were known to substantiate this rarity number. Therefore, surely, we could find a photo of what this cud looked like. The hunt was on!

Primary sources for examining 1835 die marriages and the elusive JR-4 cud included eBay, coin shows, auctions and archives, dealers, and other collectors’ collections. Years went by during which WZ discovered two new Bust dime cuds and LS documented another. An estimated

10,000 (or more) 1835 dimes were examined between the three of us over more than a decade since the publication of the 2009 dime cud list, of which several hundred are estimated to have been the JR-4 die marriage. WZ made occasional requests in the JR Newsletter and to specific collectors asking if anyone had an image of this cud. No positive responses were received, no image of this cud was ever procured, and no one who might have owned this cud or who was likely to have seen it replied. To say this search was exhausting, obsessive, and frustrating is an understatement. Periodically we would question whether this cud really existed and whether we should just give-up the hunt!

The 1835 JR-4 dime is known with a moderate die crack from the rim to the bottom arrowhead (Figure 1). Several high-grade examples show this crack prominently. However, there are no other documented die cracks in this area, at least none from A3 to the arrowheads.



Figure 1. 1835 JR4 reverse. Proof 62. Die crack or die line, lower arrow to rim circled.

The other documented Capped Bust dimes with 'arrowhead cuds' (Scuderi term) tend to be a bit rounded. This is in conflict with the angled crack seen on 1835 JR-4 projecting from the rim to the lowest arrowhead, which would be perpendicular to the semicircular die cracks or cuds normally found running across the arrowheads as in 1825 JR3 LDS; 1825 JR1 second marriage; 1832 JR3; 1833 JR3; 1834 JR6; 1835 JR1). Thus, it would appear unusual if a cud eventually formed across the arrowheads extending to A3.

Certainly, it is possible that dies (especially reverse dies) from this time-period occasionally catastrophically failed with little or no prior indication of die stress. While possible, it is also odd and intriguing that this reverse die was never used on any other die marriage and showed no other evidence of failure beyond the faint lower arrowhead crack. Yet it was retired with the 1835 JR4 die marriage leaving open the possibility of a catastrophic failure. Thus, if this cud exists it is prohibitively rare and possibly unique which would explain why it has escaped so many dedicated and diligent numismatists for so long.

The hunt is over. We think the accumulated evidence suggests that the 1835 JR-4 cud as listed on page 275 of the Bust dime book was a mistake by the authors. Please prove us wrong! Better yet, prove us wrong with multiple specimens!



The 20-year Award

By "J. R. Snowden"

Howdy Nuts,

One of the great joys of working for a Fortune 500 company was the anticipation of receiving service awards every 5 years. Months in advance of their respective incarceration milestones, inmates were ordered to make award selections from a catalogue of assorted treasures – no doubt to allow ample time for skilled Swiss craftsmen to manufacture and ship the orders. The typical 5-year award was a choice between a ball cap and a tee shirt (with company logo), and a typical 10-year award was a sweatshirt or pocket knife (pocket knives were banned from the list and the workplace post-9/11). At 20 years one is assumed to have successfully scaled the ladder, so executive accouterments such as cufflinks and tie bars (with company logo) were among the options. Near the end of my career a new awards vendor was selected. I took my 25-year award in the form of a propane camp stove (without logo) and ran out the door and deep into the woods.

With my 20-year BHNC milestone rapidly approaching, I've been keeping an eye out for emails and letters from Mr. Herrman advising of award options. On the off-chance that such notice never arrives, I decided to develop a back-up plan. The famous saying "Love yourself first and everything else falls into line" came to mind. I think Lucille Ball said that... or maybe it was Jeffrey Toobin. Anyway, I decided to award myself a genuine "Capped Bust Half Medal."

I possess a wide assortment of abused CBH's of which I'm not particularly fond, but didn't want to desecrate any by soldering on a pin-back or drilling holes. My very short list of acceptable die marriages for the "medal" was 1) 1818/7 O-101 or 2) 1807 O-113; the first Reich die used to strike halves. The daily watch for gravely injured CBH's on the bidding site began. Meanwhile, my long-dormant engineering mind sputtered to life and I began working out the details. Pendant necklace? Nah, too girly. Broach? Nah, too matronly. A big button? Nah, Dr. Petersen already did

that and I can't sew, anyway. As options were considered and discarded, I had a flashback to the summer of 1973 when my next-door neighbor Ricky Vanderhoven gifted me a British military medal that was about the size of a half dollar. Can't remember why he gave it to me – likely seeking forgiveness for pushing me out of the treehouse or buying indulgences for the next opportunity he had to push me out of the treehouse. About 30 years later I bestowed the medal upon someone who had earned it as little as I had, but liked medals. I remember it had a bearded guy on one side, a sword-wielding, stark-naked horseman on the other and a ribbon attachment thingamajig fastened to the medal at 12 o'clock with a pin. Testosterone

oozed from the design. A quick internet search revealed the bearded man was King George V and it was some sort of WWI service medal. Didn't read far enough to discover the identity of the naked man, but I'd have kept the medal if it had been Lady Godiva on that horse. Anyway, all of that is irrelevant — what I really wanted was one of those ribbon-to-medal attachment thingamajigs. A more extensive internet search ultimately revealed it's called a "suspender bar." Having made up my mind I'd find a CBH holed at 12 o'clock, I went ahead and purchased a "suspender bar" from the only guy on the internet who sells them (in the UK). The suspender bar takes a 32mm ribbon, so the hunt for patriotic-looking 32mm ribbons began. The closest thing to patriotic I could find was a vertically striped blue white and red ribbon from a British medal for war service in South Africa being sold by a Canadian. With some quick calculations, I determined that rotating the ribbon 180 degrees about the vertical axis would result in the desired color sequence. More difficult than establishing nomenclature for the "suspender bar" was finding out what to call the fastening device at the upper end of the ribbon. Not being a military man, I began to imagine a worldwide conspiracy in which all military men agreed not to divulge the name of the device in writing, nor disclose its proper use, or points of manufacture. I considered just using Velcro, but then remembered I can't sew. I finally found a picture of what appeared to be the right contraption described as a "brooch bar." Seemed hardly descriptive enough, but a search on the bidding site popped up a few in the UK. Rather than seek domestic suppliers of British brooch bars, I ponied up for shipping and was done with it.





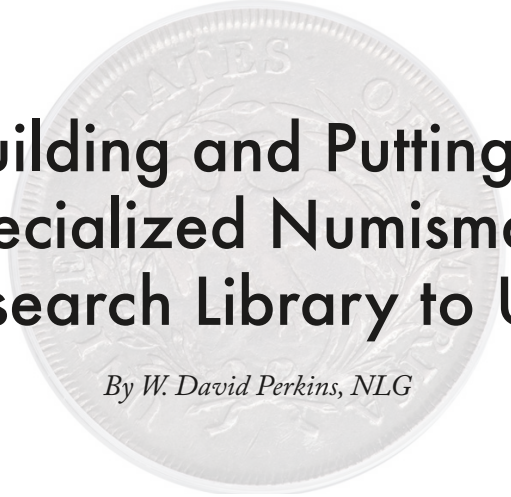
Even before my British medal components arrived, a holey 1807 appeared on the bidding site. Missing left base on the 1... could it be? Normally I'd hope for the O-111 Bearded Goddess, but I was delighted to see it was the O-113 – my second choice behind the 1818/7. The hole was in the right spot, but it was awfully large. Figuring it might take 20 years to find a coin on my list of two with a small hole in the correct spot, I decided not to fret over details and entered a large snipe bid on an already ridiculous opening bid (hoping a nuttier Nut wasn't also obsessively working on an arts and crafts project).

Days before the auction's close, but confident of securing my prize, I began thinking about how to deal with that big hole. Just solder it up and drill a new hole?

No, that hole looks really old. Whoever made it put some effort into positioning and forming that hole. It's pretty much round and wasn't even made with a drill bit — that took talent. Did Chief Engraver Scot present this 1807 to John Reich in appreciation for a job well done? Given the possibility of the hole's historical significance, I would endeavor to preserve its current form. A bushing of some sort would be required. I trust PCGS's choice in plastics to rub up against the rims of my CBH's, so why not trust that same plastic to rub up against the inside of someone else's hole? At this point I gave thanks to the Supreme Being for making me a packrat. No searching of the internet or calls to Newport Beach, CA would be required to secure this particular component, for mere inches from my left knee was a large drawer full of TPG coin holder carcasses. Problem solved. Now if a future custodian of the 1807 wishes to restore her former state of holiness, they will simply need to remove one pin and pop a bushing out of the hole.

Auction day arrived and my bid prevailed. Pandemic-delayed packages trickled into my PO Box and I eagerly tore open the final delivery (the supremely important "suspender bar"). Weeks of meticulous planning paid big dividends as the components fell together to form the magnificent bauble of my imagination.

I plan to exclusively wear my self-congratulatory 20-year award during our four most sacred annual occasions – ANA and FUN meetings of the BHNC and the JRCS. Those of you who don't already know me will now know to steer clear of the wild-eyed Nut with an 1807 O-113 on his chest.



Building and Putting a Specialized Numismatic Research Library to Use

By W. David Perkins, NLG

In 1983 I started collecting coins again. This was about 13 years after graduating from college. I probably had a recent copy of the *Red Book* and a subscription to *Coin World* in my library at this time. Of course, as I was a collector, I saved all issues of *Coin World*.

I also purchased my first Early Dollar, a Choice XF 1800 B-13 (Bolender-13) Dollar, R-4 at a coin show in Minneapolis where I lived at the time. This led to purchasing a copy of Milferd H. Bolender's book *The Early United States Silver Dollars from 1798 to 1803*.

Before the 1980s ended I was a member of The American Numismatic Association (ANA), NBS, John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS), and the Liberty Seated Collector's Club (LSCC). I have complete sets of the *John Reich Journal* (JRCS), *The Asylum*, and *The Gobrecht Journal* (LSCC).

By the middle to late 1980s I was hooked on the early dollars and was collecting them by die marriage using Bolender's book.

I began collecting Numismatic auction catalogs and began to search for catalogs featuring rare early dollars and collections. Items I looked for included hardbound catalogs, named and / or priced catalogs, and books and catalogs with documents *laid in*. I've had quite a bit of success over the years as you will see.

As I studied the catalogs and Journals I **realized from pedigrees, footnotes, and contributor names for numismatic books that there were more collectors of early dollars than there were "Name Sales" and / or public auction sales for the sale of these early dollar collections.**

3116 = MAX KAPLAN
 3117 = MAX KAPLAN
 3118 = S. H. FAGADAU
 3119 = EARL SPIES
 3120 = 495 = NOT LISTED
 3121 = E. WEIDHAAS
 3122 = FRANK M. STIRLING
 3123 = MAX KAPLAN
 3124 = MAX KAPLAN
 3125 = EARL SPIES
 3126 = EARL SPIES
 3127 = EARL SPIES
 3128 = MAX KAPLAN
 3129 = 495 = NOT LISTED
 3130 = EARL SPIES
 3131 = EARL SPIES
 3132 = EARL SPIES
 3133 = W. G. BALDENHOEFER
 3134 = ALBERT N. HANTON
 3135 = 495 = NOT LISTED
 3136 = 495 = NOT LISTED
 3137 = MAX KAPLAN
 3138 = EARL SPIES
 3139 = JOS. SARY
 3140 = C. H. THOMSEN
 3141 = W. G. BALDENHOEFER
 3142 = CHARLES C. RUBY
 3143 = MAX KAPLAN
 3144 = MAX KAPLAN

Here is a sample page of buyer's names by Lot for early dollars in the '52 ANA Sale. We see Spies, Stirling, Baldenhofer and Ruby's names. K. P. Austin bought Lot 3114 on the previous page. Buyer's names were courtesy of Francis D. Campbell and the American Numismatic Society (ANS).

I began to find and contact former collectors of early dollars and / or members of their families.

I will highlight some of the information and documents acquired, centered around six early dollar enthusiasts that bid and won lots in the 1952 *A.N.A. Convention Sale of August 16th, 18th, 19th, 21st* ('52 ANA Sale). This is a great numismatic catalog to have in a numismatic library. Like the "Apostrophe Sales" of 1979 to 1989, this sale was conducted jointly by four firms. They were Numismatic Fines Arts, Hans M. F. Schulman, Henry Grunthal, and New Netherlands Coin, Co., Inc. All four firms were in New York City.

1952
ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
of the
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
official
PUBLIC AUCTION SALE
IN SIX SESSIONS
 DONALD D'AMATO, AUCTIONEER





TO BE CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY:

NUMISMATIC FINE ARTS
 EDWARD GANS
 101 WEST 55th STREET
 NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

HANS M. F. SCHULMAN
 545 FIFTH AVENUE
 NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

HENRY GRUNTHAL
 200 HAVEN AVENUE
 NEW YORK 33, N. Y.

NEW NETHERLANDS COIN CO., INC.
 CHARLES M. WORMSER, President
 JOHN J. FORD, JR., Associate
 580 FIFTH AVENUE
 NEW YORK 36, N. Y.

DL

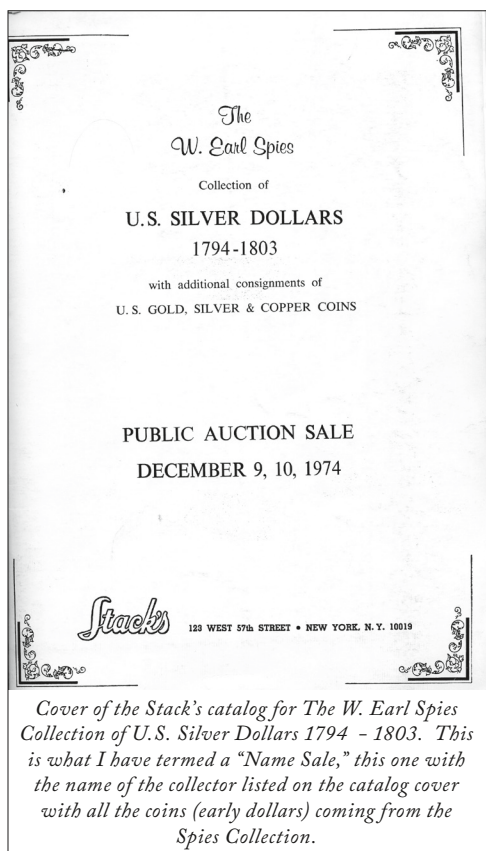
SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 16, 1952
 MONDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING, AUGUST 18, 1952
 TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 19, 1952
 THURSDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING, AUGUST 21, 1952

IN THE "SKYTOP" OF
THE HOTEL STATLER
 SEVENTH AVENUE, BETWEEN 32nd AND 33rd STREETS
 NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Inside cover of the 1952 A.N.A. Sale.
 Note the sale was conducted by four coin firms
 and was held in New York City.

One of the key offerings in the '52 ANA Sale was the Homer Downing Large Cent Collection. The sale had a large number of Leshar Dollars and early dollars 1795 to 1803, the "Property of O. K. Rumbel" of Mission, Texas. And important to my interests, there were three collections of early dollars, all attributed by Bolender numbers.

I don't recall how I became aware of this, but the ANS has a copy of the '52 ANA Sale catalog with buyer's names. I contacted ANS Librarian Francis D. Campbell in September 2004 and had the buyer's names for the early dollar lots copied and mailed to me.



half dozen collector and dealer names that connect to items in my specialized early dollar library and research over the years. The names I have chosen (in no particular order) are Frank M. Stirling, Charles C. Ruby, W. G. Baldenhofer, Kenneth "K. P." Austin, W. Earl Spies, and the Hollinbeck Coin Co. of Des Moines, IA. Each of these collectors and Hollinbeck Coin Co. purchased multiple early dollar lots in the sale.

Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, LA was a collector of the early dollars 1794 to 1803 by die marriage, with a fondness for the die marriages of the 1794-5 Flowing Hair Dollars. He started collecting in the 1940s per a letter I have. I first came across Stirling's name in *The Numismatist*, December 1952, page 1176 where Bolender reported a new variety discovery for a 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar, giving credit for the discovery to Stirling,

The first discovery of a new major variety of an early silver dollar before 1804 has recently been made, two years after the publication of Bolender's standard reference book on the subject which was published in July 1950.

The credit for this new discovery goes to Frank M. Stirling, A.N.A. member number 10052...of Baton Rouge, La., and the thrills of his finding, and pride of ownership are making this specialty most interesting. Mr. Stirling is one of the most active collectors in this field.

I acquired a few “clues” over the years regarding Stirling’s collection. The first was a listing approximately 75 coins from Stirling’s early dollar collection that I had acquired as part of a miscellaneous lot of early dollar items purchased in the B&M Armand Champa Numismatic Library sale.

The second clue was found at the top of page 42 in the *Heritage 1986 A.N.A. Mid-Winter Auction* sale, February 20-22, 1986 by Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc.

The cataloger noted,

“These 25 early American dollars constitute the major portion of the collection of a famous American numismatist from Louisiana. Although HNAI was unable to use this gentleman’s name, advanced Bolender collectors will decipher the owner’s name due to the uniqueness of these properties. We trust that you will derive as much pleasure as we did in cataloguing them; and for those of you fortunate enough to acquire one of these treasures, rest assured that you will have found a heritage of numismatics that undoubtably will be difficult to duplicate.”

These 25 early dollars were from the collection of Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, LA. The list I had earlier had about 75 different examples. The 25 Dollars in the HNAI sale matched up extremely well to 25 coins on this list, thus leaving 50 or so more to track down.

J

M. H. BOLENDER
 DEALER IN
 RARE COINS AND PAPER MONEY
 APPRAISALS—AUCTION SALES
 1126 BENSON BLVD.
 FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Sold to K. P. Austin
Salisbury
Md.

EB 23 1952

3	70 —
4	85 —
5	70 —
6	70 —
7	44 —
8	60 —
9	165 —
10	90 —
11	72 50
12	85 —
13	150 —
14	110 —
15	110 —
16	190 —
17	70 —
18	72 50
19	440 —
20	65 —
21	155 —

K. P. Austin's invoice from the Bolender 183rd Sale, the sale of Bolender's personal reference collection of early and other silver dollars. Austin bought all of the 1795 Dollars and two other Draped Bust Dollars. I also have W. Earl Spies copy of the 1952 Bolender Sale, annotated and with bids.

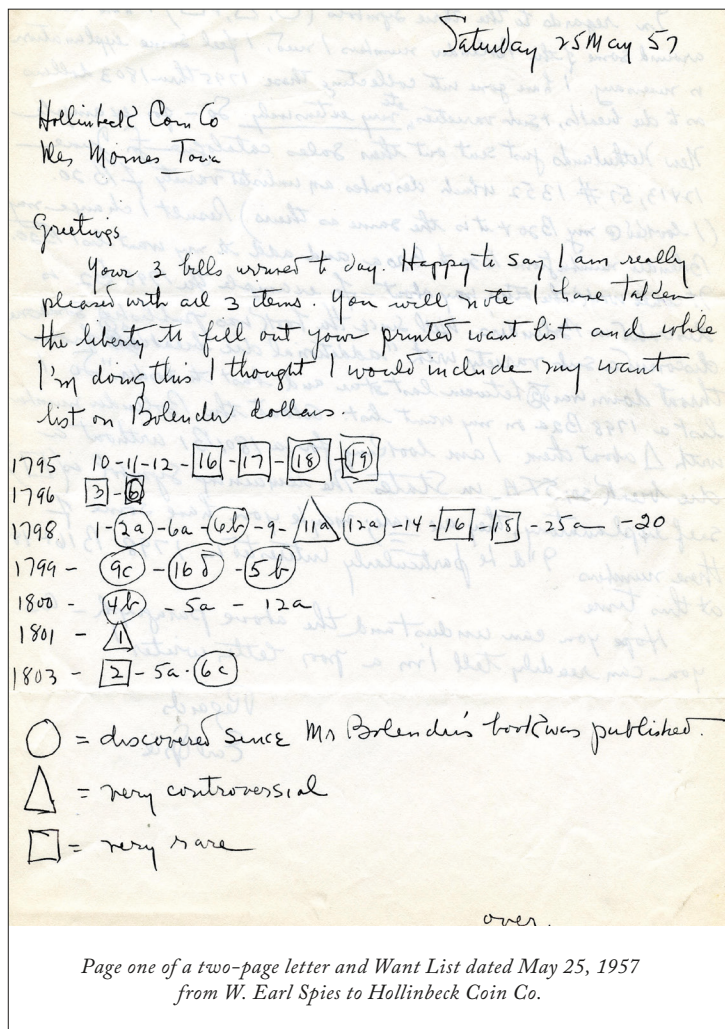
The third piece of the puzzle came from Jules Reiver and with persistence I was able to track down a daughter and grandson. I eventually was hired by the family to appraise the remaining 50 or so early dollars. Again, the 50 matched the “remaining coins” on the list of 75.

When appraising the Stirling Collection, I was able to view Stirling's correspondence with many other collectors in the 1940s though 1980s. And best of all, the family gave me copies of all the documents! They did not have any of his auction sale catalogs. I later learned Stirling had collected Plated Chapman Sales (as many do today). Stirling eventually sold these catalogs to Numismatist James Hayes.

In summary, Stirling's collection was never sold in a "Name Sale." Twenty-five of the 75 Dollars were sold at public auction but were not directly attributed to Stirling. Stirling's collection appears to have been about 75 early dollars in total. I have now recorded all 75 by Bolender number, with pedigrees.

Most of us who know the name Charles Ruby think of him as a collector of Large Cents. A smaller number knew Ruby collected the early dollars by die marriage.

Charles Ruby's own copy of Bolender's February 23, 1952 183rd Auction Sale, the sale of Bolender's personal reference collection of early and other silver dollars. [This was Lot 333 in George Frederick Kolbe's Auction Sale Seventy-Three, June 13, 1998. This sale included *Numismatic Literature from the Library of Charles Ruby*.] This Bolender sale offered 183 Varieties of early dollars before 1804. Ruby placed "conservative bids" on many lots in the Bolender sale and was successful on some.



I purchased a group of Ruby's auction catalogs, most likely in the Kolbe Auction Sale listed above. Ruby was successful on a number of early silver dollar lots in the '52 ANA Sale based on the buyer's names.

Ruby's early dollar collection was sold in a "Name Sale" at public auction by Superior Galleries June 17 thru 22, 1974. I have his catalog and prices realized for this sale in my library.

W. G. Baldenhofer was a large buyer in the '52 ANA Sale. He collected the early dollars by die marriage and was an aggressive buyer and bidder in auctions in the 1950s. Most will connect the name Baldenhofer to a 1955 Stack's sale of the Farish Baldenhofer collection. I learned from a relative of W. G. Baldenhofer that Baldenhofer had a business partner by the name of Farish. It appears "The Farish Baldenhofer Sale" was a made-up name used for the sale. W. G. "Bill" Baldenhofer was his real name, not Farish Baldenhofer. There was a medium grade date and type set of early dollars in

this sale. These may or may not have been consigned by Baldenhofer. Regardless, I knew Baldenhofer's early dollar collection was much larger than what was in the 1955 Stack's sale.

SILVER DOLLARS

- 232 — **B-12a. (Borderline R-7.)** Almost VF, RRR, and the second one ever reported though now several others (all well worn) are traced. Reverse bolder than obverse, showing traces of lustre. Ex O. K. Rumbel, 1952 ANA Convention sale, lot 3100, claimed to be ex Stickney 807, but that claim is also made for the more worn Bolender, Taylor, Kagin piece.
- 233 — **B-13. (High R-7.)** VF plus, surfaces suggesting EF, striking very uneven with many details full EF and part of right wing flat. Beautiful iridescent tone. Minute pinpoint nick above eagle's head. Apparently **second finest known**, exceeded by a solitary mint state example discovered some years after Bolender published his book. Probably the discovery specimen; ex Col. Green, this is the original Bolender coin (believed by him to be the one from the Haseltine Type Table sale, 1881), **pictured on the Bolender Plate. Exceedingly rare**, first offered in many years, first ever handled by us. **PLATE**
- 234 — **B-14. (R-2, low.) Draped Bust. Almost Unc.** iridescent steel, blue and dull gold tone; frosty surfaces, completely clean though with many rev. adjustment marks. Above average strike, nearly full breast feathers, and more would show but for the adjustment marks. Hidden rev. border dent. Not recently exceeded; many of the "unc." examples sold in the last ten years have been no sharper. This is one of the famous old examples; ex F. C. C. Boyd, WGC 15 as "Unc." **PLATE**
- 235 — **B-15. (R-4.) Draped Bust;** faint beginnings of the "B-15a" cracks. More or less **Ex. Fine**, gray and iridescent tone, rev. much sharper than obv.; clean frosty surfaces.
- 236 — **B-15a. Abt. Unc.** Usual uneven strike, centers not as bold as remainder; faint touches of cabinet friction, small rim nick at top rev., traces of old cleaning. Struck on a flan full of adjustment marks and with a tiny split at obv. at obv. rim above I. Exceptional condition. **PLATE**
- 237 **1796. B-1. (R-5 high.)** Better than VF, some areas strongly suggesting EF especially on rev.; obv. less well struck up. Pastel iridescent toning, clean surfaces. Apparently **third finest known**, exceeded by the R. Coulton Davis unc. and by one full EF. At least equal to Bolender's. Very rare above Fine. Ex Ralph J. Lathrop, 1952 ANA Convention auction, lot 1233. **PLATE**
- 238 — **B-2. (Nearly R-6.)** Small wide even date, small letters. **Extremely Fine**, flatly and rather weakly struck as always; beautiful surfaces, some area of practically full mint sharpness. Pastel sunset colors. **Tied for second finest known.** Ex G. M. Parsons (1914), Bolender coll. **Picture on the Bolender plate.** The most undervalued type among early dollars. The small date small letters 1796 is seldom available in any grade and excessively rare choice. **PLATE**
- 239 — **B-4a. (R-3.)** Small date, large letters. **Ex. Fine**, central areas weakly and unevenly struck, obv. full of adjustment marks; mint lustre with much iridescent gray and blue toning. **Condition Census** level. Generally considered RR as a die state; Bolender knew only the one, though a couple of dozen worn ones have shown up since 1950. Ex Andre DeCoppet (1955). **PLATE**

Lot 232 in this September 1968 Lester Merkin public auction sale was a 1795 B-12a Flowing Hair Dollar. The lot description mentioned a piece ex. Bolender, Taylor, Kagin. I could not find much on a "Taylor" collection of early dollars until Art Kagin brought a copy of his 1959 Fixed Price List of the America's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars for Sale at Fixed Prices, the collection (per Art) of Emanuel Taylor. Today I have the Spies copy of this FPL in my library, annotated and with Lots ordered laid in.

[For more information see *The Asylum*, Volume 25, Number 2, Spring 2007: "Who was Farish Baldenhofer?"]

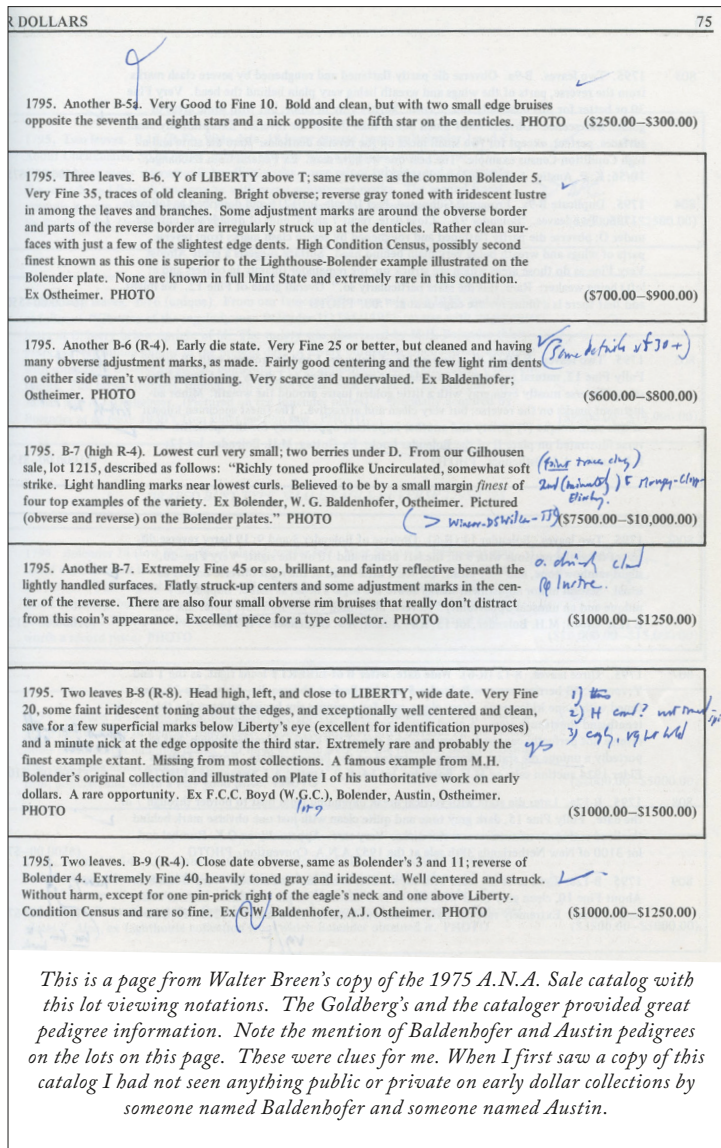
Baldenhofer's name also appeared in pedigrees in the Superior Galleries 1975 A.N.A. Sale. I also picked up some letters to and from him over the years. I knew he collected silver dollars but could not piece together his entire collection.

Around 2003-4 I purchased two portable file cabinets of notes and correspondence on early dollars from Jacques Ostheimer. She and her husband Alfred J. Ostheimer III collected and studied the early dollars. They were not active collectors until the late 1950s.

Much to my surprise there was a series of letters and listings between dealer M. H.

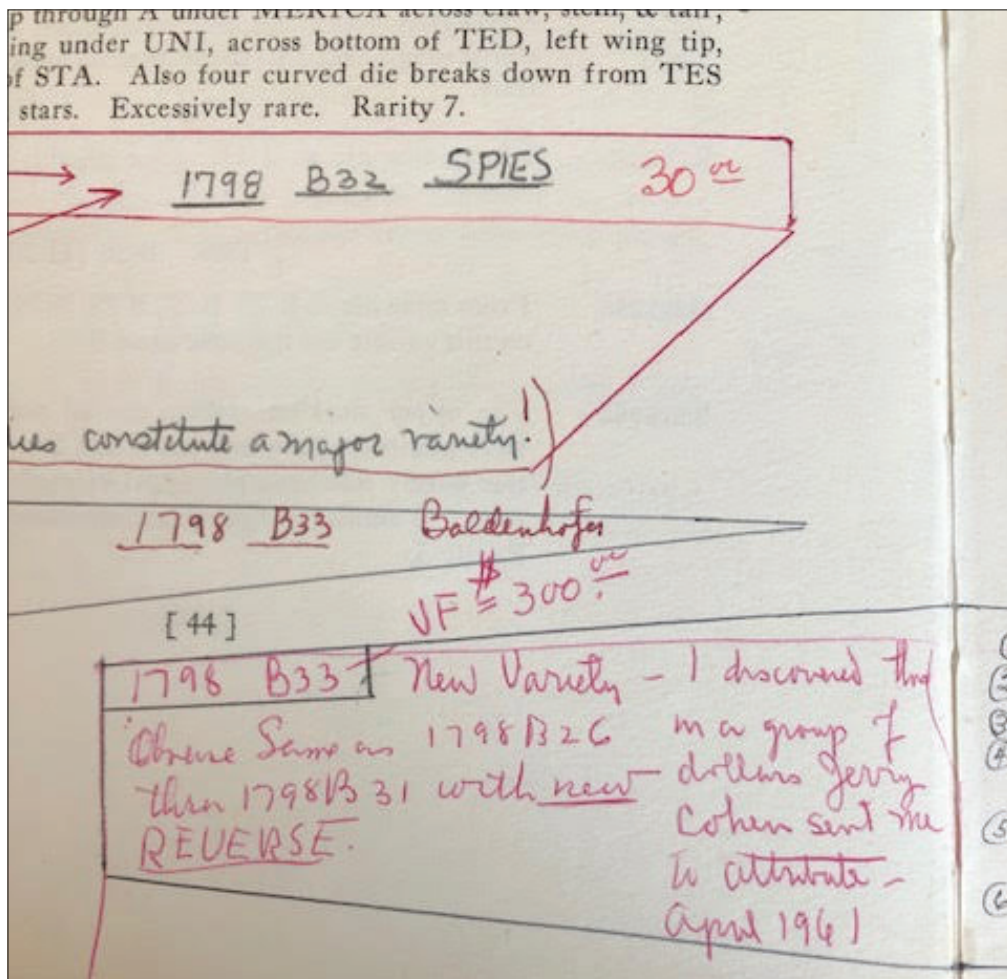
Bolender and the Ostheimers regarding the *en bloc* purchase of the extensive Baldenhofer Collection of silver dollars which included early dollars by die marriage, Gobrecht and Seated Dollars, and Morgan and Peace Dollars. I now knew

all that was the Baldenhofer's early dollar collection! Bolender had immediately sold the entire Baldenhofer silver dollar collection to the Ostheimers. This took place around 1959-60.



Kenneth P. Austin was from Salisbury, MD. He began collecting early dollars by die marriage by purchasing all the 1795 Dollars from the 1952 sale of Bolender's Reference Collection of early dollars. I learned this by acquiring at auction Austin's personal copy of the Bolender sale, complete with 3 documents including the sale invoice from Bolender.

[For more information see the John Reich Journal, Volume 19 / Issue 2, December 2008: "Early Dollar Specialist K.P. Austin of Salisbury, Maryland." This issue is available to view on the Newman Portal.]



I was given W. Earl Spies heavily annotated copy of this First Edition Bolender Early Dollar Book. This page shows notes for the 1798 B-33 die marriage. The book and a letter I came across show Spies discovered this die marriage (probably in the 1950s) despite a 1974 Coin World article announcing the discovery of the B-33 die marriage by another collector and dealer. This marriage is rated R-8 today, with three examples known.

Jules Reiver knew K. P. Austin. Jules gave me a copy of Austin's collection with cost code and sources of early dollar purchases that Austin had given him. I had a good feel for what was in the collection but could not find a public sale of the collection anywhere. Austin's name showed up in pedigrees in the 1968 Lester Merkin Auction Sale and 1975 A.N.A. Sale, along with a few other sales over the years.

I also found correspondence and listings for the Austin collection in the Ostheimer correspondence that I had purchased. Like Baldenhofer, Austin sold his collection *en bloc* to Bolender, and Bolender then sold it to the Ostheimers! This was around 1960.

As a side note, it took me a while, but I was eventually able to talk with Austin a few times on the phone. The first time I was able to talk with him I asked about his collection and library. He said that "all my records were 'lost or stolen!'" I replied, "Mr. Austin, I think I can help you." I sent him copies of everything I had listed above, recreating his collection! I even had his bourse

MEMBER OF AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION NO. 2776

MEMBER OF
LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB
ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COIN CLUB
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

M. H. BOLENDER
NUMISMATIST
DEALER IN RARE COINS AND PAPER MONEY
IN MY 54th NUMISMATIC YEAR

P. O. Box 63
SAN MARINO, CALIF.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MEMBER OF
CENTRAL STATES
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA STATE
NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
CHICAGO COIN CLUB

I certify that the U. S. Dollar Collection being sold to the Ostheimers contains the following coins, as described in detail, and that their present approximate fair value is as listed

M. H. Bolender

1794	B-1'	Unc.	Formerly in the collections of H. A. Granberg of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Waldo Newcomer of Baltimore, Maryland, banker, William H. Woodin, Col. Green, Jerome Kern. One of the 3 or 4 best known, very rare.	\$200.00
1795	B-1'	Unc.	one of the finest known (Kagin valued a similar piece at \$950.00)	500.00
	B-2'	Fine	scratch in field	60.00
	B-3'	A.U.	a few scratches	110.00
	B-4'	X.F.	reverse edge nick	100.00
	B-5'	X.F.	nearly uncirculated	125.00
	B-6'	X.F.-A.U.	rare condition for this	140.00
	B-7'	Unc.	gem, rarity 4, one of the best seen	450.00
	B-9'	Unc.	rarity 5, (Kagin sold X.F. one at \$375.00)	400.00
	B-9a'	V.F.	rare variety	200.00
	B-12'	V.F.	rarity 6, in very few collections	200.00
	B-12a'	V.F.	rarity 7, (Stickney-Bollender-Taylor specimen was just fine, offered by Kagin one year ago at \$475.00. This specimen is much better.)	300.00
	B-13'	Unc.	rarity 7, one of best known (Taylor-Kagin piece just V.F. sold at \$235.00)	300.00
	B-14'	Unc.	(Taylor-Kagin ask \$475.00)	350.00
	B-15'	X.F.	about uncirculated	175.00
1796	B-1'	Unc.		275.00
	B-2'	X.F.	Formerly in collections of Parsons, Bolender	140.00
	B-4'	Unc.	gem, best of this variety	300.00
	B-4a'	X.F.	Formerly in the collections of Gable, Chapman, John T. Reeder, and Bolender.	200.00
	B-4b'	X.F.	extremely rare variety, nick in field	250.00
	B-5'	X.F.		160.00
	B-5a'	A.U.	Formerly in collections of Col. Green, Bollender (Kagin's X.F. was priced at \$200.00)	175.00
	B-5b'	A.U.	an early strike, very rare state of dies	250.00
1797	B-1'	X.F.	Formerly in the DeCoppet collection	250.00
	B-1a'	V.F.-X.F.	Formerly in the collections of Col. Green, Bolender	165.00
	B-1b'	V.F.		160.00

This is a copy of page 1 of the Bolender purchase and sale of the W. G. Baldenhofer early dollar collection. Bolender sold this collection to the Ostheimers. I acquired the Ostheimer correspondence, notes, and items like this invoice from Mrs. Ostheimer. I also have the same for the K. P. Austin Collection.

floor notebook with photos of the rare die marriages. The records had not been "lost or stolen" Austin had given them to Bolender when Bolender bought his collection, and Bolender in turn had given them to the Ostheimers. Austin sent me a set of photos of all Bolender's 1795 Dollars as thanks.

The W. Earl Spies Collection of early dollars was sold by Stack's in December 1974 as *The W. Earl Spies Collection of U.S. Silver Dollars 1794-1803*. Spies collected the early dollars by die marriage and die state and had 236 early dollars in his collection when sold in 1974. I tracked down his son and learned Earl Spies collected silver dollars in the 1950s and 1960s, had a stroke in 1971, and a second one in 1977 that ended his collecting.

I have Spies' heavily annotated first edition of the Bolender book along with a handful of key auction sales in which he had participated in.

This leaves the lone coin firm / dealer name that I am including, the Hollinbeck Coin Co. This firm was owned by Art and Paul Kagin. I had seen pedigrees mentioning "Taylor-Kagin". This begged the question, did one of the Kagin's collect the early dollars, and who was "Taylor?"

I spoke with Art on a few occasions. Art liked the early dollars, and importantly, Art eventually told me that he purchased the entire Emanuel Taylor Collection of silver dollars in 1959. Taylor was an avid collector of silver dollars including early dollars by die marriage. Taylor's extensive silver dollar collection was offered in a little-known Fixed Price List titled, *"America's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars."*

Many of the Taylor Early and Seated Dollars "reappeared" in two 1995 Bowers & Merena Sales but were not pedigreed in in the catalog to either the Kagin's or Emanuel Taylor.

[For more information see *The Asylum*, Volume XXIII, Number 4, Fall 2005: "A rare but Little Known Fixed Price List: America's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars for Sale at Fixed Prices.]"

Perhaps a representative from the Hollinbeck Kagin, Co. firm was bidding for Emanuel Taylor.

I purchased the Hollinbeck Coin Co.'s copy of the first edition of the Bolender Book (1950) from Function Associates, a Numismatic Literature dealer if I remember correctly. Laid in was a want list and two-page letter from Earl Spies.

Today I have a good general library of Numismatic Literature along with a specialized library centered around the early dollars 1794-1804. I still have a copy of the Red Book (maybe it is a year old....) and long ago ran out of room to store every issue of Coin World.



Counterstamping Capped Bust Half-Dimes

By Winston Zack

INTRODUCTION

Counterstamped Capped Bust half-dimes (CBHD) are comparatively rare relative to denominations struck on larger planchets. The late Steve Crain and his collection of all things half-dime only included one such example despite decades of searching. Similarly, a review of Brunk's 2003 publication *Merchant and Privately Countermarked Coins* documented a similar scarcity of such pieces with only 28 recorded; this represents about 3% of all the counterstamped Bust silver coinage documented by Brunk! And among those 28 counterstamped CBHDs were just 18 unique counterstamps.

The likely reason half-dimes in general were so rarely counterstamped probably had to do with their small planchet size. The small planchet size restricted the overall size of the counterstamp in order to create effective public advertising. Therefore, few such pieces could accommodate most such metal stamps being created and used for counterstamping coins prior to the U.S. Civil War.

SPOTLIGHTING TWO COUNTERSTAMPED CBHDS

At this time, I do not see myself as a major collector of counterstamped U.S. coins. My collection is quite modest. But over the last couple of years, I have grown an appreciation for such pieces. In particular, my interest is drawn to identifying and documenting the history behind the people and businesses that counterstamped coins in order to learn a few more nuggets from those times and places.

It is not unusual for my research efforts to quickly hit dead-ends in terms of clearly identifying and distinguishing who historically counterstamped the coin in question. This is usually because the historical names in question were so common. Yet, on other occasions some of those people have unique enough names make it easier to identify who counterstamped the coin. Sometimes these people have richly documented histories, while on other occasions their histories are quite limited.

Here I present on the abbreviated life and history of two people who counterstamped CBHDs.

A. B. GRANT

Mr. Alexandria B. Grant was born in New York in 1813. In 1840 he married a woman named Rebecca; no information has been found about Mr. Grant prior to his marriage to Rebecca. In the 1850 census, Mr. Grant was listed as a Grocer in Troy Ward 2, Rensselaer, NY; it is hypothesized that this half-dime was counterstamped in italicized font when he was still a grocer. By 1855, the New York City census showed Grant living with his wife, five children, and a servant. His profession/occupation also changed to that of a carpenter. Grant seems to have had additional children by 1870, and some of those children from 1855 no longer appear on the census; some children may have either died or left the household in those intervening 15 years. No other specific details about Mr. Grant's life have yet been found. In 1902, at the age of 88, Mr. Grant died from as yet unidentified causes.



N. J. TRACY

N.J. TRACY was a prolific counterstamper. Dozens of coins still exist with his counterstamp. Most are known on large cents and dimes, and to a lesser extent on other denominations and in a couple cases tokens; this is one of two CBHDs known with his counterstamp (both are dated 1835)! Despite how relatively common this counterstamp is today, apparently nobody has concluded who this person was or what their profession was in the past. The latest dated coin with this counterstamp is on Flying Eagle cents from 1857 and 1858. Thus, we can reasonably assume N. J. TRACY was counterstamping coins just prior to the U.S. Civil War.

Brunk (2003) lists the first two potential individuals with the name of N. J. Tracy while I found another potential person.

Nelson J. Tracy from the 1840 census.
Nathan J. Tracy from the 1860 census.
Newell J. Tracy from the 1850 census.

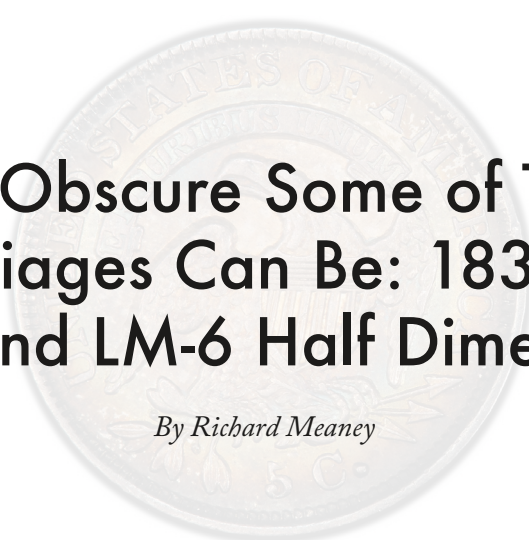
The first potential N. J. Tracy is Nelson J. Tracy who, in the 1840 census, was living in Leroy, Genesee, New York and was aged between 30 and 40 which gives a birth year range between 1800 and 1810. The 1850 census identifies a similar Nelson Tracy living in Genesee and born in 1807 with an occupation as a peddler. The 1860 census then shows this Nelson Tracy as a farmer in the same area. The professions of peddler and farmer do not resonate as professions likely to have resulted in the person having a metal stamp created to advertise these professions. Therefore, it is reasonably assumed that this is not the N. J. Tracy from the surviving counterstamps.

The second N. J. Tracy is more convincing. This is Nathan James Tracy of Vermont. He was born in 1834 and was a resident of Westminster, Vermont. In 1860, at the age of about 26, his occupation was listed as a carpenter, a profession that could have lent itself to advertising this trade by counterstamping coins. Mr. Tracy then served in the U.S. Civil War with Company A, 2d Vermont. He lived until 1911. If it is presumed that this Nathan Tracy was responsible for counterstamping many coins in his mid to late 20s prior to the Civil War, nothing historically notable has been found to support this. Therefore, while this person is the strongest candidate of the three identified for being responsible for counterstamping his name on coins, this profiled N. J. Tracy may not be the actual person who counterstamped these coins.

Finally, there is a Newell J. Tracy who was born in 1831 in New York. In 1850 Newell was living in Lansingburgh, Rensselaer, New York but his occupation was not listed. In 1859 he was living in Cincinnati, Ohio

with a still unlisted occupation. No census or other information could be found about this person after 1859. With the absence of any notable historical documentation, it seems unlikely that this is the industrious person who would make a metal stamp with their name and prolifically advertise it on coinage.





How Obscure Some of These Remarriages Can Be: 1835 LM-5 and LM-6 Half Dimes

By Richard Meaney

Over the years, I have gained great satisfaction from focusing my attention on capped bust half dime remarriages. The perceived subtlety involved with distinguishing one remarriage from another has garnered much more of my attention than simply identifying die marriages. Like most collectors of early half dimes, I have “The Book” (*Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837*, by Russ Logan and John McCloskey), have read The Book, and regularly refer to The Book. Every now and then, something that has been in The Book all along stands out and gathers my attention. Something stood out in The Book and prompted me to write this article.

Referencing page 76 of The Book for a discussion on the die remarriage for Reverse CC. This very simple chart shows that the 1835 LM-5.1 was struck first, then the 1835 LM-6 was struck, and finally the 1835 LM-5.2 was struck ...all using reverse CC. Ho-hum stuff, right? Not to me! I was recently most intrigued by the authors’ introduction to this remarriage by the language they used to introduce it: “This reverse provides an excellent example of how obscure some of these remarriages can be.” That phrase perfectly describes what I like to study. I like to study the obscure stuff of the capped bust half dime series, the remarriages. To me, they make sense. To me, differentiation between each of the remarriages associated with a single die marriage is not an indecipherable task. With this article, I hope to make it easier for others to differentiate between the 1835 LM-5.1 and the 1835 LM-5.2 half dimes.

The reason I believe this article is important stems from the 2019 JRCS Census of capped bust half dimes. In that census, collectors reported a dozen coins attributed as 1835 LM-5.1 and another dozen coins attributed as 1835 LM-5.2. The reported 1835 LM-5.1 coins ranged from F12 to MS64 in grade, with an average of choice XF. The 1835 LM-5.2 coins ranged from VF30 to MS64 in grade, with an average of AU. Having studied half dimes for nearly two decades, my gut tells me that this distribution of remarriages doesn't seem right. I would expect that 1835 LM-5.1 remarriages would be scarcer than 1835 LM-5.2 remarriages. I would expect that if 24 coins were reported for the 1835 LM-5 die marriage, maybe only one third of that number would be the earlier remarriage.

To differentiate between the early remarriage, the 1835 LM-5.1, and the later remarriage, the 1835 LM-5.2, one needs to carefully and closely examine the ES area of STATES on the reverse. In order for a coin to be considered a true 1835 LM-5.1, there must be NO BREAKS in that area. One must use magnification to determine if die cracks are present. Typically, collectors, cataloguers, and auction houses miss these die cracks and misattribute their coins. On reverse CC, during the striking of the 1835 LM-6, a die crack develops from the lower serif of E2 toward the left of the upper loop of S2 and to the rim. A die crack can also develop between the rim and the central portion of the top of S2. Further inspection of reverse CC may show die cracks below ES toward the scroll. I encourage readers to do an internet search for "1835 LM-5.1" and examine photos and descriptions of various coins on collector and dealer websites and in

auction archives. You will see what I have seen...capped bust half dimes attributed as 1835 LM-5.1 are actually 1835 LM-5.2 much of the time.

Recognize that on most well-circulated coins, die cracks may have become worn away. Darker patina on a tiny half dime may also muddle any attempt at locating a fine or thin die crack in the area of ES. Collectors should use a quality loupe and ample lighting to determine the presence or absence of cracks before committing to an attribution for an 1835 LM-5 remarriage.

I believe that if collectors apply the findings of Logan & McCloskey, along with the simple information in this article, when attributing their 1835 LM-5 half dimes, the obscurity of the Reverse CC remarriages will become a thing of the past.



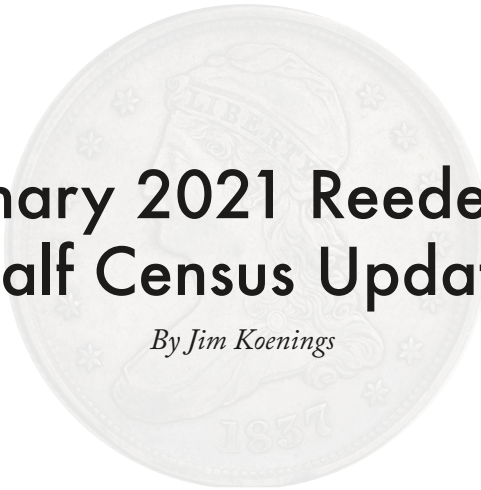
This photo shows a close-up that has been cropped from the reverse of an 1835 LM-

5.2 graded PCGS AU55. Note the presence of die cracks in the area of ES of STATES. I used this picture to clearly illustrate where the cracks will be present. Recognize that in earlier die state 1835 LM-5.2 coins, these die cracks will not be as pronounced ...they may not be readily-evident without close inspection.



This photo shows a close up that has been cropped from the reverse of an 1835 LM-5.1 graded PCGS AU55. Die cracks are not present in the area of ES of STATES.

I announced my intent to write this article in a JR Newsletter post in February 2015. Obviously, it took me quite some time to getting around to it! Many fellow numismatists provided me with ideas, photos, feedback, and coins to study over the years. I particularly want to thank Gary Rosner and Mirek Kiec for their assistance.



Preliminary 2021 Reeded Edge Half Census Update

By Jim Koenings

The 2021 Preliminary Census includes the census information of all collectors that submitted their census. This Census was attached to my Reeded Edge Half Newsletter #26 issued on June 15, 2021. Interested collectors may obtain a copy of Newsletter #26 by sending their email address to bustcoin1@verizon.net and requesting it.

The 2021 Final Census will show the Top 15 Collections and have a tabulation of all data. It is proposed to have it printed in the November-December 2021 issue of the J R Journal.

The deadline for submitting census information for the Final 2021 Reeded Edge Half Census is September 15, 2021.

Please send your census information to: Jim Koenings at bustcoin1@verizon.net

The September 15, 2021 deadline will allow me time enough to tabulate the information and submit it to Brad Karoleff prior to October 1, 2021 and allow him time to plan for the Final J R Journal for 2021.

Note: Collectors interested in learning more about Reeded Edge Halves should send their email addresses to Bustcoin1@verizon.net

Newsletter #26 starts a monthly Newsletter on the 12 Most Common 1838 Die Marriages that include large photos and information to assist you in attributing them. It also includes recent acquisitions by other collectors and recent sales of R-5 and rarer die marriages. Currently there are nearly 100 collectors that receive these free Newsletters.

The John Reich Collectors Society wants you!

To recruit one new member to our organization, copy this membership
or direct them to our new website, www.jrcs.org.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Office Use Only

JRCS# _____

Type or Print

Name _____
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Address _____ Email _____

_____ Date of Birth _____
(Month) (Date) (Year)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

The purpose of The John Reich Collectors Society ("JRCS") is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States silver and gold coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins. A member's name and address will not be included in any membership directory issued by JRCS or be disclosed to others without prior consent of such member.

Check the appropriate space below:

_____ Collector _____ Collector-Dealer _____ Dealer (Firm Name) _____

Indicate your area(s) of interest in Early United States Coins:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a _____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dimes | h _____ Capped Bust Quarter Dollars |
| b _____ Draped Bust Half Dimes | i _____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars |
| c _____ Capped Bust Half Dimes | j _____ Draped Bust Half Dollars |
| d _____ Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes | k _____ Capped Bust Half Dollars |
| e _____ Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes | l _____ Flowing Hair Bust Dollars |
| f _____ Capped Bust Dimes | m _____ Draped Bust Dollars |
| g _____ Draped Bust Quarter Dollars | n _____ Gold Issues |

I hereby apply for membership in JRCS. As required by the By-Laws of JRCS I agree to pay promptly all my debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I enclose a check or money order for \$25.00 payable to "John Reich Collectors Society" for my annual membership contribution, or \$625.00 for a life membership in the Society.

Dated: _____
(Signature of applicant)

If applying for reinstatement, please give your former JRCS member # _____

Guarantee (if Applicant is under 21 years):

I guarantee payment by the Applicant of his/her debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I am 21 years or older.

(Signature of Guarantor)

Relation to Applicant _____

Sponsor's Statement:

I sponsor the above Applicant for membership in JRCS.
My JRCS member number is # _____

(Signature of Sponsor Member)

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